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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/065,596	11/01/2002	Zhihong Ye	RD-29,357-1	2441
6147	7590	09/07/2005	EXAMINER	
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY GLOBAL RESEARCH PATENT DOCKET RM. BLDG. K1-4A59 NISKAYUNA, NY 12309			GONZALEZ, JULIO C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2834	

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/065,596

Applicant(s)

YE ET AL.

Examiner

Julio C. Gonzalez

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 21-24 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 21-24 and 26 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the fourth leg being connected to a fourth outlet of the load port as disclosed in claim 26 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR

1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action.

The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 – 3, 5 –7, 9, 13, 21, 22, 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takakado et al (US 5,237,260) in view of Julian et al (US 5,852,558) and Glennon (US 4,507,724).

Takakado et al discloses a power conditioner having a rectifier 1, an inverter 2 coupled to the rectifier 1 and the rectifier coupled directly to the machine port AG (see figure 1), a prime mover EG, a dc bus having a capacitor 3 and battery BATT supplying power to the capacitor 3 and the rectifier 1 in starting mode functions as an inverter to provide power to the machine AG and in operation mode, the combined rectifier 1 and inverter 2 provided power to the load port T01,

T02 (see figure 1 & column 1, lines 15-17, 22-30, 35-39, 43-48, 54-61; column 4, lines 3, 4).

Moreover, Takakado discloses a rectifier 1 having three legs and having switching devices QR1-QR6 with a plurality of diodes D1 being connected in parallel to the switching devices (see figure 1).

However, Takakado et al does not disclose explicitly showing that the inverter disclose having a neutral output.

On the other hand, Julian et al discloses for the purpose of achieving efficiently load balancing, an inverter 20 having four legs (see figure 1) and each leg having switches 50-57 being placed in parallel to diodes 60-67 and on the leg of the inverter being connected to a neutral point 34 (see figure 1; column 6, lines 31-38).

Although Julian et al discloses, as claimed, that one of the legs of the inverter (leg containing I_4) is electrically coupled to a neutral output (see figure 1), Glennon has been further cited, for the purpose of preventing returns of regenerative currents develop by the load that it is well known in the art to have a fourth leg an inverter (elements Q7, Q8) being coupled to a neutral output via neutral bus line 30.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design a power conditioner as disclosed by Takakado et al and to modify the invention by having a neutral output connected to one of the converters for the purpose of achieving efficiently load balancing as disclosed by Julian et al and to further show that it is well known in the art to have a leg of an inverter connected to a neutral point for the purpose of preventing returns of regenerative currents develop by the load as disclosed by Glennon.

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takakado et al and Julian et al and Glennon as applied to claims 1-3 above, and further in view of Lakey et al (US 4,883,973).

The combined power conditioner discloses all of the elements above. However, the combined power conditioner does not disclose explicitly that a power source is recharged by the rectifier or inverter.

On the other hand, Lakey et al discloses for the purpose of optimizing the efficiency of an electrical machine at a desired output level that an electrical is run in different modes and in one mode the battery charged by the bridge rectifier (see claim 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design the combined power conditioner as disclosed above and to charge a battery using a rectifier for the purpose of optimizing the efficiency of an electrical machine at a desired output level as disclosed by Lakey et al.

5. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takakado et al and Julian et al and Glennon as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Geis et al (US 5,903,116).

The combined power conditioner discloses all of the elements above. However, the combined power conditioner does not disclose using a turbine as a primer mover.

On the other hand, Geis et al discloses for the purpose of providing a motor/generator with precise control, an inverter being used with a turbine system (see figure 4 & abstract).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design the combined power conditioner as disclosed above and to have an inverter with four legs for the purpose of providing a motor/generator with precise control as disclosed by Geis et al.

6. Claims 10, 12 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takakado et al and Julian et al and Glennon as applied to claims 1, 16 and 22 above, and further in view of Stanton et al (US 4,179,729).

The combined power conditioner discloses all of the elements above. However, the combined power conditioner does not disclose that the power factor is adjustable and that the power factor is zero.

On the other hand, Stanton et al discloses for the purpose of improving the power conversion system for converting the electrical power at different frequencies that it is known in the art to use a zero power factor (see figure 11A, 11B) and that the power factor is adjustable (column 8, lines 59-62).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design the combined power conditioner as disclosed above and to have a zero power factor for the purpose of improving the power conversion system for converting the electrical power at different frequencies as disclosed by Stanton et al.

7. Claims 8, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takakado et al and Julian et al and Glennon as applied to claims 1 and 16 above, and further in view of Nguyen (US 6,067,237).

The combined power conditioner discloses all of the elements above. However, the combined power conditioner does not disclose explicitly that the roles of the inverter and rectifier are reversible so that the rectifier acts as an inverter and the inverter acts as a rectifier.

On the other hand, Nguyen discloses for the purpose of providing a converter with reversible functions, thus more efficient, a rectifier 15 and inverter 4 and the rectifier 4 functions as an inverter and the inverter 4 functions as a rectifier when needed (column 3, lines 55, 56; column 2, lines 25, 49; column 5, line 29 – column 6, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design the combined power conditioner as disclosed above and to modify the invention by having the inverter function as a rectifier and vice-versa for the purpose of providing a converter with reversible functions, thus more efficient as disclosed by Nguyen.

8. Claims 11, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takakado et al, Julian et al and Glennon as applied to claims 1, 16 and 22 above, and further in view of ordinary skill in the art.

The combined power conditioner discloses all of the elements above.

However, the combined power conditioner does not disclose that the power factor is greater than 0.95.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a power factor of 0.95, since it has been held that discovering the optimum value of result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F. 2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-15, 21-24 and 26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

10. Applicant's arguments filed 08/05/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to the remarks that the prior art fails to disclose an inverter having a leg being connected to a neutral output, Julian et al shows in figure 1, leg with switching elements S4, 56, 57 being connected to ground through capacitor 38.

Respectfully, the claim is not specific enough to distinguish from the prior art.

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julio C. Gonzalez whose telephone number is 571-272-2024. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8AM-5PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on 571-272-2044.


The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Julio C. Gonzalez
Examiner
Art Unit 2834

Jcg

August 19, 2005


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